

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)

Monday, September 09, 2002 – For Immediate Release

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Spratt Gets Top Score for Voting to Protect Social Security and Medicare

WASHINGTON – The nation's second-largest grassroots organization devoted to retirement has given U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) a perfect score for his votes to protect Social Security and Medicare.

The National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, founded in 1982 to serve as an advocate for the landmark federal programs of Social Security and Medicare, gave Spratt a 100% score on seven votes in 2001 and six votes in 2002 in the U.S. House of Representatives.

"Senior citizens in South Carolina can count on John Spratt to protect Social Security and Medicare — the twin pillars that are so important to a good quality of life for older Americans," said Barbara B. Kennelly, the group's President and CEO.

"I have always supported Social Security and Medicare," said Spratt, "because I support the goal of allowing all Americans to have a secure and healthy retirement."

Spratt plays a key role in Congress as the Ranking Member on the House Budget Committee.

"I am now concerned," said Spratt, "with the steady descent of the budget from a huge surplus of \$5.6 trillion to almost nothing. Fifteen months ago, Democrats and Republicans swore never again to borrow from the Social Security trust fund and spend it to run the government, but to use the Social Security surplus solely to buy up outstanding debt held by the public. And the Congressional Budget Office told us if we did that religiously for 10 years, we could basically buy back all the debt held by the public: \$3.5 trillion worth by 2012.

“The biggest challenge facing the federal government is how to get the budget out of deficit and out of Social Security. This is a bigger problem today than in the 1980s when the deficit soared, because the baby boomers will begin to retire in 2008, and in time, their retirement will put an enormous strain on Social Security and Medicare.”

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